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Frank A. LoBiondo, MC

LEE R. WARE  
Director

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February 23, 2009

The Honorable Frank LoBiondo  
Member of Congress  
2427 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
Attention: Geoff Gosselin

Dear Congressman LoBiondo:

We respectfully request your sponsorship of our appropriations request for the short line rail rehabilitation. The requested \$2,000,000 will be spent on the Phase IV rehabilitation of the 18 mile short line run by Salem County Transit from Swedesboro to the Salem Port, over the Oldman's Creek trestle.

The short line delivers raw materials to various businesses in Salem County and takes finished products to be shipped via the Port of Salem. It is over 100 years old and in such disrepair that it is only possible to travel 5 miles per hour, taking the operator nearly ½ a shift to move the cars from Swedesboro to Salem in addition to the time it takes to load and unload cars. Even then, there are often derailments which restrict the delivery of raw materials to businesses in a timely manner.

This project benefits numerous businesses and their workers along the line in Salem County and South Jersey, including Anchor Glass, Mannington Mills Floor Company, South Jersey Port Corporation, and the South Jersey Farmer's Exchange. If we are unable to complete this rehabilitation, businesses may eliminate jobs to counter the additional costs for trucking materials to their facilities when the line is not operational.

We look forward to working with you to benefit these businesses and workers. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (856) 339-8614 or our representative, Matthew Wright at (202) 585-2270.

Sincerely,

Lee R. Ware  
Freeholder Director